



PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

MAY 24 2005



MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS

SUBJECT: Implementation of Confidentiality Policy

We are within 30 days of implementing the Department's Restricted Reporting option for victims of sexual assault established by the Deputy Secretary of Defense's memorandum, *Confidentiality for Victims of Sexual Assault*, dated March 16, 2005. This reporting option allows Service members who are sexually assaulted to confidentially disclose the details of their assault to specifically identified individuals and receive access to medical care, counseling and victim advocacy, without initiating the investigative process.

I ask each of the Services to take the remaining days to examine their implementation procedures, with particular emphasis on training for commanders, investigators, sexual assault response coordinators, healthcare providers and other sexual assault response personnel to ensure they are prepared, as they are the linchpins of our sexual assault response capability.

This fundamental change in the Department's handling of sexual assault requires all of us to work together to implement successfully. We anticipate unique questions and circumstances may arise that will require further clarification. Therefore, we must continue to keep the lines of communications open, and view these challenges as opportunities to refine our policy. Using the spirit and intent of our restricted reporting policy as our guiding principles we will ensure sexual assault victims receive the same level of care and support regardless of where they are assigned.

The successful implementation of confidentiality under the restricted reporting option will be the hallmark of the Department's sexual assault prevention and response efforts.

David S. C. Chu

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